would be 5% of the average foreign exchange earned by them in the preceding three licensing years. The scheme will cover only those Service Providers who have an average foreign exchange earning of over Rs. 10 lakhs in the preceding three licensing years.

Border trade through N.E. Corridor

2263. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the clause-wise implementation status of the package finalized towards upgradation of trade and commerce with the neighbouring countries through N.E. corridor showing location-wise infrastructure developed so far and the achievements made;

(b) the details of the agreements reached with the neighbouring countries for promotion of border trade; and

(c) the progress made on reopening and improvement of Stillwell road, connecting N.H. 38 through Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Consequent to the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Central Government has set up an Empowered Committee on Promotion of Trade and Exports in North East and Sikkim. The important steps taken to upgrade trade and commerce with the neighbouring countries through the North East region are as under:

(i) Four border townships at Zokhawtha (Mizoram), Moreh (Manipur), Dawki (Meghalaya) and Sutarkhandi (Assam) have been identified for development of trade related infrastructure and an amount of Rs. 16.29 crores has been sanctioned.

(ii) A trade-cum-exhibition centre has been sanctioned at Guwahati for which an amount of Rs. 13.40 crores has been sanctioned.

(iii) APEDA has sanctioned four reefer vans in the North East region for perishable goods and has set up a cold storage at Guwahati.

(iv) An Agri Export Zone has been sanctioned in Assam.

(v) Under the Export Development Fund scheme Rs. 9.30 crores has been sanctioned for promotion of exports from the North East region. Some of the important projects sanctioned include Pilot project for handloom exports from Nagaland & Arunachal Pradesh. Project for international marketing of North Eastern handicrafts, Project for exports of orchids from Sikkim, 100% Export oriented unit for Hydro-Carbon Free yarn project.

(vi) Development of Land Custom Stations in the North East has also been taken up.

(b) India has border trade agreements with Myanmar and China. India has signed a border trade agreement with Myanmar on 21.1.94. The agreement provide for border trade initially through Moreh (Manipur) and Champhai (Mizoram) and subsequently through any other point to be mutually identified. Currently, border trade with Myanmar is being conducted through Moreh only. Recently, India and China have agreed to use Nathula as the Pass for entry and exit of persons, means and transport and commodities engaged in border trade.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.

FCV Tobacco

2264. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas where Flue Curved Virginia tobacco is grown;

(b) the problems being faced by the tobacco growers and exporters;

(c) the demands of the growers;

(d) the action taken thereon; and

(e) the prospects of tobacco sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Flue Curved Virginia (FCV) tobacco is grown in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa and Maharashtra.